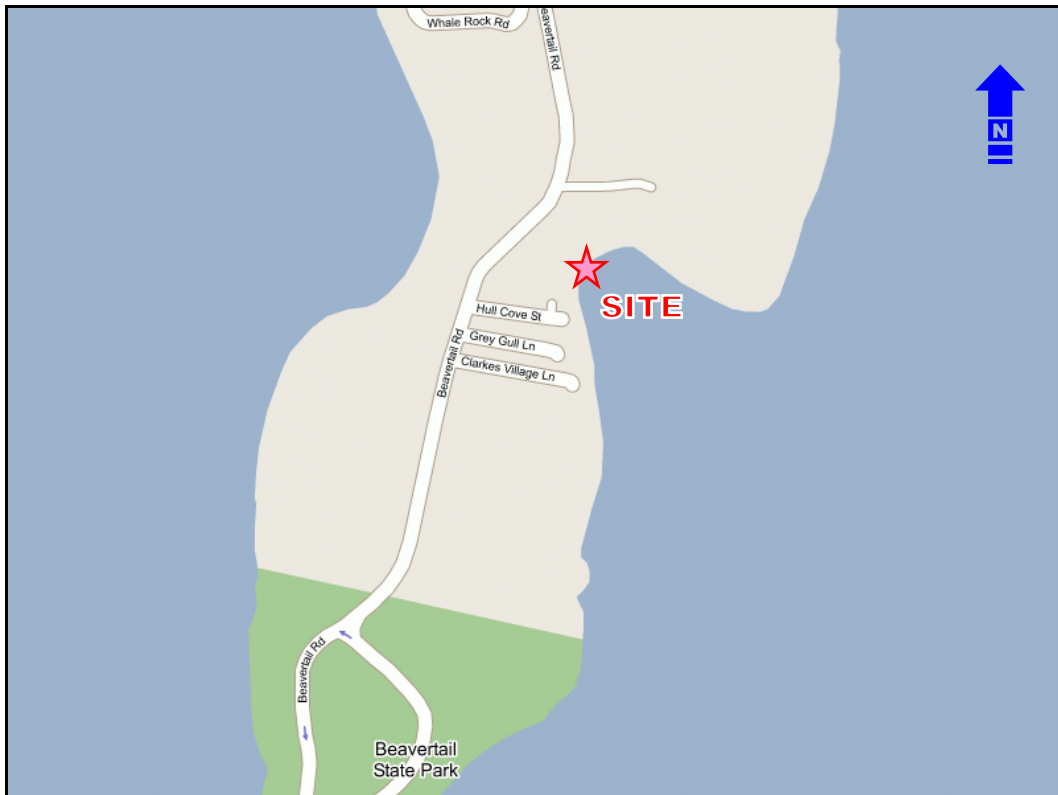


Site No. 16

HULL COVE

Jamestown
Beavertail Road



HULL COVE

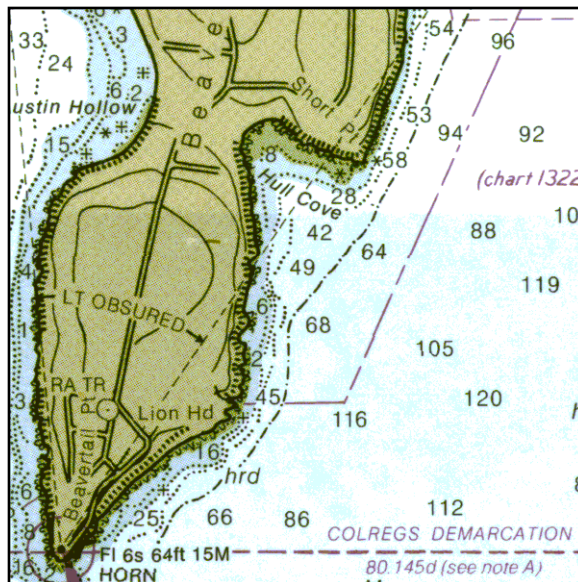
Site Description

Hull Cove is a small bight along the easterly shoreline of the Beavertail Peninsula in Jamestown. Accessed from Beavertail Road via property owned by the Conanicut Island Land Trust, Hull Cove Beach is a town-owned area offering excellent views of both the East Passage entrance to the Bay and the rocky shorelines which flank the site. Though limited in use by the small parking lot along Beavertail Road, this location offers good natural character and quality fishing along the rocks at the easterly end of the site.

Location Assessment

Bay Location. Approximately 1 mile north of Beavertail Point in Jamestown, Hull Cove is a small coastal bight situated along the East Passage entrance to Narragansett Bay. In addition to fishing along the rocky shorelines which flank the cove (particularly at Short Point, see nautical chart image), the beach is likely used by local residents for low intensity recreation activities (Photos 3, 4, 5). One individual was observed snorkeling within the cove at the time of site visit, and both boating and sailing were observed to occur well removed from the cove.

From the Online Recreational Fishing Survey, common catch in the vicinity of Beavertail Point consists of Striped Bass, Bluefish, and Tautog, all of which were consistently indicated spring through fall. Waters in the vicinity of this site were assessed as fully meeting aquatic life support criteria. These waters are open to shellfishing and have been designated water quality Goal of SA (high quality) by the RIDEM (see Appendix B).



Land Location. The Hull Cove site is located along the Beavertail Peninsula at the southerly end of the island of Jamestown. Beavertail is linked to the rest of Jamestown by a narrow stretch of land, along which Beavertail Road is flanked by Mackerel Cove Beach to the south and the Sheffield Cove salt marsh to the north. Visitors coming to the site (from North Kingstown via the Jamestown-Verrazano Bridge or from Newport via the Claiborne Pell Bridge) must pass through the town center, though traffic along local roads is generally not problematic given the rural character of the island community. RIPTA buses do provide regular service to Jamestown, however the site is approximately 2.5 miles from the nearest stop at the town center.

Other land uses along Beavertail consist mainly of low-density residential and lands designated for open space conservation, although a small moderate-density residential tract is located directly west of the beach (Photos 4, 5). The primary means of access to the Hull Cove shoreline is by a narrow footpath through a conservation area protected by the Conanicut Island Land Trust (a nonprofit natural resources preservation corporation for the benefit of the general public). The rocky shoreline at this location is also accessible by rights-of-way at the ends of

Clark's Village and Grey Gull Lanes, though there is no public parking along these streets. Further south along the peninsula, Beavertail State Park offers excellent shoreline fishing and outdoor recreation opportunities for the public.

Environmental Constraints and Permitting. Characterized by its rocky shoreline, Hull Cove is located along coastal waters designated as Type 1 (Conservation Area) by the CRMC. The coastal feature is the top of bank located along the coastal beach. Eelgrass is documented to exist in this area.

Facilities Assessment

Currently functioning as a natural shoreline right-of-way, Hull Cove Beach is accessed from Beavertail Road by a narrow footpath through the Conanicut Island Land Trust conservation area (see Photo 2). As there is no on-street parking along this stretch of Beavertail Road, use of the site is supported by a small gravel parking lot near at the path entrance (Photo 1), which provides space for a maximum of 5 vehicles. Trash and recycling receptacles are provided at the path entrance, and the path itself has several wood planks along its length which allow access during periods when poorly-drained soils in the area are flooded. Based on the lack of parking or other posted restrictions at the entrance, night fishing access to the site is apparently permitted.

Though offering excellent visual character, Hull Cove Beach does not appear to be regularly maintained, as a moderate amount of washed-up litter and debris was present along the shore (see Photo 8). At the time of site visit, fishing was observed to occur along the rocks at the easterly end of the cove, near Short Point (Photos 6, 7). One angler interviewed noted that while little fishing occurs along the beach itself, both of the rocky shorelines which flank the cove (particularly Short Point) are fairly popular. Fishing use of the site is generally limited to able-bodied, experienced anglers, since accessing these preferred spots requires walking a distance from the path entrance and negotiating the difficult footing along the rocks. Furthermore, as properties in both directions from the town-owned beach parcel are privately owned, access to these fishing spots may involve encroaching upon private property.

Existing Site Conditions

	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
<i>Existing Fishing Facilities</i>		X		
<i>Parking</i>	X			
<i>Compatibility with Surrounding Land / Water Uses</i>		X		
<i>Statewide Transportation Accessibility / Public Transit</i>	X			
<i>Site Aesthetics</i>			X	
	Low	Medium	High	
<i>Water Quality (see Appendix B)</i>			X	

Priority for Capital Improvements: Low

Hull Cove is very similar to Brenton Point (Site No. 12, Newport) in that both (a) offer good rocky shoreline access for a primarily advanced user base, (b) are remotely located within Rhode Island's transportation infrastructure, and (c) are limited by environmental and engineering constraints that would prohibit the development of shoreline structure. Unlike the Brenton Point site however, Hull Cove is further hindered by the residential uses which immediately surround the site and the limited parking currently available for public access. While parking could conceivably be improved upon in a similar manner as that recently done at Rome Point (Site No. 18, North Kingstown), the limited use of the site is unlikely to warrant further disturbance of the undeveloped conservation land along Beavertail Road. Additionally, Beavertail State Park (approximately 1 mile south) provides a viable alternative with good public access, ample parking, and comparable shoreline fishing, further diminishing the Hull Cove site's need for capital improvements by the State.



Photo 1. Parking area along Beavertail Road.



Photo 2. Entrance to footpath leading to Hull Cove Beach.



Photo 3. Hull Cove Beach at footpath clearing.



Photo 4. Looking south along westerly shoreline of Hull Cove.



Photo 5. Looking southwest along Hull Cove Beach.



Photo 6. Looking east across Hull Cove to Short Point.



Photo 7. Fishing along rocks near Short Point.



Photo 8. Typical litter condition along Hull Cove Beach.